

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 8

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a rotary latch of the type having a rotating latch member and a pivoting release member which selectively interact to retain and release a lock strike, the improvement comprising:

a rigid, generally U-shaped housing defined by a base, ~~[[and]]~~opposing sidewalls integral with and upstanding from opposite sides of said base in a mutually parallel relationship, with a set of laterally aligned outwardly opening strike notches in said sidewalls to selectively receive a portion of the lock strike therein, and an upstanding end wall integral with said base and said sidewalls and disposed adjacent to said strike notches to rigidify said housing;

a first set of mounting apertures extending laterally through said sidewalls of said housing about a first pivot axis disposed generally perpendicular with said sidewalls and spaced laterally apart from said strike notches;

a first retainer extending through said first set of mounting apertures, and pivotally mounting said latch member in said housing between said sidewalls for rotation in a plane generally parallel with said sidewalls;

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 9

a second set of mounting apertures extending laterally through said sidewalls of said housing about a second pivot axis disposed generally parallel with and spaced laterally apart from said first pivot axis; and

a second retainer extending through said second set of mounting apertures, and pivotally mounting said release member in said housing between said sidewalls for rotation in a plane generally parallel with said sidewalls, and selective engagement with said latch member; said first pivot axis and the second pivot axis being laterally aligned on said sidewalls to facilitate mounting said rotary latch in both left and right hand latch locations.

2. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, including:

a mounting bracket adapted to mount said housing on an associated support surface, and including first and second fasteners connected with said first and second retainers in a generally coaxial relationship to mount said housing in both the left and right hand latch locations.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A rotary latch as set forth in claim ~~[[3]]~~2, wherein:

said housing includes an open, U-shaped end disposed opposite said end wall.

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 10

5. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 4, wherein:

said first and second pivot axes lie in a plane disposed generally parallel with said base.

6. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

said housing has a die cast construction.

7. (currently amended) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

said latch member is configured and positioned to extend completely across said strike notches for ~~improved~~ engagement with the lock strike.

8. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 7, wherein:

said first set of mounting apertures has a size and shape substantially identical with the size and shape of said second set of mounting apertures.

9. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

said first and second retainers have a substantially identical size and shape.

10. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 11

said first and second sets of mounting apertures each include a circular aperture disposed in a first one of said sidewalls, and a non-circular aperture disposed in a second one of said sidewalls.

11. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

said first and second retainers each have a hollow cylindrical body, with an enlarged head end thereof received in said circular aperture of said first one of said sidewalls, and a shank end thereof received in said non-circular aperture of said second one of said sidewalls, and deformed therein to secure said retainers in said housing.

12. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 11, wherein:

said hollow cylindrical body of said retainers is internally threaded to receive said first and second fasteners therein, and attach said housing to said mounting bracket.

13. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 12, wherein:

said housing includes a stop positioned along said base to abut said latch member and positively locate the same in a predetermined open position.

14. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 12

said non-circular aperture includes at least one radially extending notch.

15. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 14, including:

a coil spring mounted in said housing and resiliently biasing said latch member toward said open position.

16. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 15, wherein:

said latch member includes at least two notches which are selectively engaged by said release member to retain said latch member in first and second closed positions.

17. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 16, wherein:

said strike notches have a generally U-shaped configuration defined by a bottom edge, and first and second side edges extending outwardly from said bottom edge.

18. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 17, wherein:

said first side edge is disposed at a first acute angle relative to said bottom edge.

19. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 18, wherein:

said second side edge is disposed at a second acute angle relative to said bottom edge.

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 13

20. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

said second edge is disposed closest to said first pivot axis; and

said second acute angle is less than said first acute angle.

21. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

said bottom edge is disposed substantially parallel with said base.

22. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 21, wherein:

said latch member includes a generally U-shaped outwardly opening notch configured to receive and selectively retain therein a portion of the lock strike.

23. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 22, wherein:

said latch member notch is at least in part defined by opposed tapered outer ends to facilitate guiding the lock strike into said latch member notch.

24. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 23, wherein:

said latch member includes a laterally extending aperture through which said first retainer is closely received to pivotally mount said latch member in said housing.

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 14

25. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 24, wherein:

said release member includes a laterally extending aperture through which said second retainer is closely received to pivotally mount said release member in said housing.

26. (canceled)

27. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said housing includes an open, U-shaped end disposed adjacent said second pivot axis.

28. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said first and second pivot axes lie in a plane disposed generally parallel with said base.

29. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said housing has a die cast construction.

30. (currently amended) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said latch member is configured and positioned to extend completely across said strike notches for ~~improved~~ engagement with the lock strike.

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 15

31. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said first set of mounting apertures has a size and shape substantially identical with the size and shape of said second set of mounting apertures.

32. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said first and second retainers have a substantially identical size and shape.

33. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said first and second sets of mounting apertures each include a circular aperture disposed in a first one of said sidewalls, and a non-circular aperture disposed in a second one of said sidewalls.

34. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said housing includes a stop positioned along said base to abut said latch member and positively locate the same in a predetermined open position.

35. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, including:

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 16

a coil spring mounted in said housing and resiliently biasing said latch member toward an open position.

36. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said latch member includes at least two notches which are selectively engaged by said release member to retain said latch member in first and second closed positions.

37. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said strike notches have a generally U-shaped configuration defined by a bottom edge, and first and second side edges extending outwardly from said bottom edge.

38. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 37, wherein:

said first side edge is disposed at a first acute angle relative to said bottom edge;

said second side edge is disposed at a second acute angle relative to said bottom edge;

said second edge is disposed closest to said first pivot axis; and

said second acute angle is less than said first acute angle.

39. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 38, wherein:

said bottom edge is disposed substantially parallel with said base.

Applicant : Bruce C. Bacon
Serial No. : 10/806,264
Confirmation : 1927
Atty. Dkt. : BAU03 P-308
Page : 17

40. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said latch member includes a generally U-shaped outwardly opening notch configured to receive and selectively retain therein a portion of the lock strike.

41. (original) A rotary latch as set forth in claim 40, wherein:

said latch member notch is at least in part defined by opposed tapered outer ends to facilitate guiding the lock strike into said latch member notch.

42-53 (canceled)